

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1. (Original) A method for facilitating supplier qualification and quality management functions in a communications network environment, comprising:

receiving at a host system a request by a user system to execute supplier qualification and quality management software, wherein said software comprises a selection module, a qualification module and a quality module, and wherein said host system and said user system are connected to said communications network;

executing said software at the host system;

sending results of said execution of said software to the user system;

receiving input at the host system from the user system in response to said execution of said software; and

providing the user system with output generated as a result of said execution of said software.

Claim 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said selection module comprises:

supplier selection; and

supplier audit management.

Claim 3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said supplier selection comprises:

retrieving at least one potential supplier based on specific technical requirements.

Claim 4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said supplier audit management comprises:

accessing audit data for a potential supplier;
analyzing said audit data; and
approving said potential supplier based on results of said analysis of said audit data.

Claim 5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said audit data comprises:

audit schedules;
a list of completed audits; and
audit reports.

Claim 6. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said supplier selection is performed using a development toolkit network software application.

Claim 7. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said supplier audit management is performed using a quality information network software application.

Claim 8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said qualification module comprises:
technology qualification; and
part qualification.

Claim 9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said technology qualification comprises:

accessing technology survey data for a potential supplier;
analyzing said technology survey data; and
qualifying the technology of said potential supplier based on results of said analysis of said technology survey data.

Claim 10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said technology qualification is performed using a development toolkit network software application.

Claim 11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said part qualification comprises:
accessing part qualification data for a potential supplier;
analyzing said part qualification data; and
qualifying proposed part from said potential supplier based on results of said analysis of said part qualification data.

Claim 12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said part qualification is performed using a part qualification software application.

Claim 13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said quality module comprises:
process change management;
supplier quality management; and
tracking problems in a log.

Claim 14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said process change management comprises:
accessing supplier initiated proposed changes to a qualified part;
analyzing said proposed changes; and
accepting said proposed changes based on results of said analysis of said proposed changes.

Claim 15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said process change management is performed using a process change notification software application.

Claim 16. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said supplier quality management comprises:
accessing quality metrics provided by a supplier;

analyzing said quality metrics; and
notifying said supplier of quality issues based on results of said analysis of said quality metrics.

Claim 17. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said supplier quality management is performed using a process change notification software application.

Claim 18. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said tracking problems in a log comprises:

opening a new problem report;
accessing said open problem report;
closing said open problem report;
notifying interested parties of status of said problem report;
generating a report that summarizes said status of a collection of said problem reports.

Claim 19. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said tracking problems in a log is performed using a problem log software application.

Claim 20. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said user system is used by a supplier and access is restricted to said supplier data.

Claim 21. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said user system is used by a supplier and access is restricted to supplier application functions.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating supplier qualification and quality management functions in a communications network environment, comprising:

a host system including a web server, an applications server, and a database server; at least one data storage device in communication with said host system; supplier qualification and quality management software application being executed by said host system, said supplier qualification and quality management software application comprising a selection module, a qualification module and a quality module; a firewall in communication with said host system; a workstation; and a computer network connecting the host system to the workstation; wherein information inputted into the workstation is transferred to the host system and made available to the supplier qualification and quality management software application.

Claim 23. (Original) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for facilitating supplier qualification and quality management functions in a communications network environment, the storage medium including instructions for causing an enterprise system to implement a method comprising:

receiving at a host system a request by a user system to execute supplier qualification and quality management software, wherein said software comprises a selection module, a qualification module and a quality module, and wherein said host system and said user system are connected to said communications network; executing said software at the host system; sending results of said execution of said software to the user system; receiving input at the host system from the user system in response to said execution of said software; and

providing the user system with output generated as a result of said execution of said software.

Claim 24. (Original) The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said selection module comprises:

supplier selection; and
supplier audit management.

Claim 25. (Original) The storage medium of claim 24 wherein said supplier selection comprises:

retrieving at least one potential supplier based on specific technical requirements.

Claim 26. (Original) The storage medium of claim 24 wherein said supplier audit management comprises:

accessing audit data for a potential supplier;
analyzing said audit data; and
approving said potential supplier based on results of said analysis of said audit data.

Claim 27. (Original) The storage medium of claim 26, wherein said audit data comprises:

audit schedules;
a list of completed audits; and
audit reports.

Claim 28. (Original) The storage medium of claim 24 wherein said supplier selection is performed using a development toolkit network software application.

Claim 29. (Original) The storage medium of claim 24 wherein said supplier audit management is performed using a quality information network software application.

Claim 30. (Original) The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said qualification module comprises:

technology qualification; and
part qualification.

Claim 31. (Original) The storage medium of claim 30 wherein said technology qualification comprises:

accessing technology survey data for a potential supplier;
analyzing said technology survey data; and
qualifying the technology of said potential supplier based on results of said analysis of said technology survey data.

Claim 32. (Original) The storage medium of claim 30 wherein said technology qualification is performed using a development toolkit network software application.

Claim 33. (Original) The storage medium of claim 30 wherein said part qualification comprises:

accessing part qualification data for a potential supplier;
analyzing said part qualification data; and
qualifying proposed part from said potential supplier based on results of said analysis of said part qualification data.

Claim 34. (Original) The storage medium of claim 30 wherein said part qualification is performed using a part qualification software application.

Claim 35. (Original) The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said quality module comprises:

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process change management;
supplier quality management; and
tracking problems in a log.

Claim 36. (Original) The storage medium of claim 35 wherein said process change management comprises:

accessing supplier initiated proposed changes to a qualified part;
analyzing said proposed changes; and
accepting said proposed changes based on results of said analysis of said proposed changes.

Claim 37. (Original) The storage medium of claim 35 wherein said process change management is performed using a process change notification software application.

Claim 38. (Original) The storage medium of claim 35 wherein said supplier quality management comprises:

accessing quality metrics provided by a supplier;
analyzing said quality metrics; and
notifying said supplier of quality issues based on results of said analysis of said quality metrics.

Claim 39. (Original) The storage medium of claim 35 wherein said supplier quality management is performed using a process change notification software application.

Claim 40. (Original) The storage medium of claim 35 wherein said tracking problems in a log comprises:

opening a new problem report;
accessing said open problem report;
closing said open problem report;
notifying interested parties of status of said problem report;

generating a report that summarizes said status of a collection of said problem reports.

Claim 41. (Original) The storage medium of claim 35 wherein said tracking problems in a log is performed using a problem log software application.

Claim 42. (Original) The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said user system is used by a supplier and access is restricted to said supplier data.

Claim 43. (Original) The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said user system is used by a supplier and access is restricted to supplier application functions.